

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS
FOR GLADYS COOKE

HON. BRENDA JONES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Ms. JONES of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to a retired teacher in my district, Gladys Cooke. Born on December 17, 1938, Gladys was the third child of Jessie Mae and Robert Jones.

She graduated from Parker High School and Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama, and became a teacher in the Detroit school system, where she taught math at Cass Technical High School, Mumford High School, and Cooley High School. As a young woman she was featured in *Ebony Magazine*.

She has 3 brothers and 4 sisters, one of whom is deceased. She is the proud mother of Dr. Tiffany A. Cook of Atlanta, Georgia.

She will be celebrating her 80th Birthday next week with friends, family, and loved ones at Joe Muer Seafood at the Renaissance Center in Detroit.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL
LAFROMBOISE FOR THE 2018
MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VET-
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel LaFromboise of Wolf Creek, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. LaFromboise proudly joined the United States Marine Corps soon after graduating high school. He served as a Corporal stationed in Korea in the late 1950's, following the Korean War. His service to his community has continued well after his military career.

Mr. LaFromboise became a member of the Montana law enforcement community, serving thirteen years with the Montana Highway Patrol and three years as a Deputy Sheriff in Lewis and Clark County. A member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribe, Mr. LaFromboise participated in a state sponsored bison program and volunteered his personal time to deliver bison meat to families in need. His dedication to serving hungry families often meant driving hundreds of miles on deliveries.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Daniel LaFromboise for his dedication and service.

SUPPORT FOR H. RES. 1169, RE-
AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES TO PRO-
MOTE FREE, FAIR, TRANS-
PARENT AND CREDIBLE ELEC-
TIONS IN BANGLADESH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1169 calling for a free and fair election in Bangladesh. My district is home to a large population of Bangladeshi ex-pats, and I've heard from them about the need for a free, fair, transparent, and credible election.

During the 2014 general election, major Bangladeshi political parties boycotted the election due to concerns about the impartiality of the electoral process. Historically, Bangladesh would install a caretaker government during elections to ensure free, fair, transparent, and credible elections. However, during the 2014 election, that didn't happen. Since then, there have been political rivalries that have devolved into violent clashes. All parties should be free to participate in the political process. They should be free to express their political views, campaign and hold peaceful rallies and meetings, and not fear physical retribution for exercising a fundamental human right to participate in the democratic electoral process.

I believe that free, fair, transparent, and credible elections are the cornerstone of democracy. As Bangladesh is scheduled to hold general elections at the end of the month, I urge everyone to participate in the democratic process, and vote.

I'm a proud co-sponsor of this resolution and urge my colleagues support as well.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CA-
REER OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL
THOMAS C. SMITH III

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas C. Smith III, who served ably as Director of the Birmingham VA Medical Center during his distinguished career in the U.S. Army and with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Throughout his career, Mr. Smith worked tirelessly to provide care for our nation's Service Members and Veterans. Mr. Smith was a man of the highest character who loved his family and who dedicated himself to God and country.

Mr. Smith was born in Phenix City, Alabama, on July 6, 1953, to parents Thomas C. Smith II and Ganelle Putnam Smith. He grew up with three sisters, Kaye, Phyllis, and Deborah, who he loved and cherished greatly.

After graduating from Central High School, Mr. Smith attended Auburn University where he was well known for his acting talent and often graced the stage of Telfair Peet Theatre. Upon earning his degree at Auburn, Mr. Smith worked at the Ritz Theater in Gadsden, Alabama. It was there, as Director of the Ritz

Theater, that Mr. Smith met the love of his life, and his future wife, JoDean.

Over the course of their marriage, JoDean and Mr. Smith had six beautiful children, including two sons, Justin and Drew, and four daughters, Adrienne, Emily, Laura, and Kathleen.

At the age of 29, Mr. Smith joined the U.S. Army, pursuing a career of service in the field of health care. As a Service Member, Mr. Smith studied at Baylor University, receiving his Masters in Healthcare Administration in 1992. Mr. Smith worked at U.S. Army hospitals around the globe, from the Army General Hospital in Seoul, South Korea, to the Army Health Center in Vicenza, Italy. His 22-year career in the U.S. Army culminated with Mr. Smith's work as Deputy Commander for Administration of the Army Community Hospital at Fort Benning, Georgia.

While in the military, Mr. Smith was inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit, an honorary organization which recognizes leadership and significant contributions to the Army Medical Department. He also earned the Expert Field Medical Badge and received the Army Legion of Merit for exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

After retiring from the military in 2005, Mr. Smith began serving as Assistant Director and thereafter Director of the Central Texas Veterans Affairs Hospital. After eight years there, Mr. Smith accepted the Directorship role at the Birmingham Veterans Affairs Medical Center. For those who had the opportunity to work with Mr. Smith he will always be remembered as a tireless servant leader who cared deeply for our Veterans, appreciated those who worked with him, and related to everyone with compassion and respect.

While Mr. Smith dedicated himself fully to caring for Service Members and Veterans, he was also a devoted father and husband. He was always happiest when he was surrounded by his loving wife, his children, and his grandchildren. Mr. Smith's Catholic faith was of the utmost importance to him, and he truly sought to live each day according to Christ's example.

On a personal note, I got to know Mr. Smith when he assumed the role of Director of the Birmingham VA Medical Center. Mr. Smith was a true patriot who led by example. His warm smile and engaging spirit greeted every Service Member and Veteran that sought care at the Birmingham VA Hospital. Mr. Smith made a positive and lasting impact on the Veteran community in Birmingham. His legacy will live on in the many people he touched through his long career providing quality health care to our military Service Members and Veterans.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, JoDean, son Justin and daughter-in-law Molly, son Drew and daughter-in-law Angie, daughter Adrienne and son-in-law Richard Stravitsch, daughter Emily and son-in-law Daniel Henson, daughter Laura, daughter Kathleen, and fourteen grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Kaye Latulippe, Phyllis Mann, and Deborah Smith. He is preceded in death by his parents, Thomas C. Smith II and Ganelle Putnam Smith.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 7th Congressional District and the State of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and incredible contributions of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas C. Smith III. He served his